Leys News

Delivered FREE to over 5000 homes across the Leys

The BIG Feature

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The African School
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ISSUE 74
JUNE 2010

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PROUD FANS WELCOME WINNING CLUB!

United fans lined the streets of Oxford to celebrate the club's big win. Turn to Back Page for report.

Vote for what you want!

Election will decide on local activities

Clockhouse Project worker Sally Meachim

THE Leys CDI Clockhouse Project has launched its very own election.

Local over-50s have until 30 June to vote for the three activities they would most like the Clockhouse Project to offer. All the 22 activities on the voting papers have themselves been suggested by local residents.

They include basic DIY, learning to play recorder, drawing and sketching, and a monthly quiz. The project will announce the winning activities in early July and fund raise to run them.

Clockhouse Project worker Sally Meachim said "We aim to consult regularly with local over-50s, to find out what activities and services they want the project to offer.

"This year we have caught election fever, and decided to offer Leys over-50s a ballot all of their own!

"Our black ballot box is already filling up with votes and we're hoping for lots more. Anyone who is 50-plus and lives in or near The Leys is very welcome to take part."

People can pick up a voting sheet from the Clockhouse Community Centre, Long Ground, Greater Leys, or ring 01865 395908 to vote over the phone.

The Clockhouse Project is part of the local charity Leys CDI (Leys Community Development Initiative), and was set up in 2007, to work with over-50s living in and near The Leys, developing the activities and services they see as priorities.

All the Clockhouse Project's current activities such as line dancing, tai chi, stretch and relax, crafts and singing for fun have been set up in response to demand from local over-50s. They are all drop-in and low-cost or free. Over the past year it has also offered gardening, oil painting, and first aid.

The project is just one of the organizations based at the Clockhouse Community Centre.

Others include: SLIGO gardening club with a programme of speakers, events and trips, the Clockhouse IT Project Group, which offers free IT training to local over-50s, Age Concern, and the Rosewood Club.

Roman relics to be uncovered on The Leys

Volunteers needed to unearth their past

A MAJOR three-year archaeological study will include Blackbird Leys.

The £330,700 project has received funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund and nearly £50,000 from Oxford University's John Fell Fund.

Project leaders hope to involve the whole community in the investigations, through the teaching of archaeological skills and giving them the chance to take part in excavations.

Blackbird Leys, which was built on the site of Roman potteries, will be one of the sites targeted by the project.

Stuart McLeod, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for South East England, said: "This project seeks to connect local residents with a history of their neighbourhoods that few can have imagined. In so doing, it turns them into landscape detectives, provides skills training and gives them a stake in preserving their heritage."

The Blackbird Leys estate is built on an area where a major pottery industry flourished in Roman times.

Project leader Dr David Griffiths said: "This is very exciting. East Oxford is a fascinating part of the city that a lot of people are interested in, but there has never been a coherent investigation of it."

Blackbird Leys will be part of a major archaeology project

Plans for a community-led archaeological project in the area were suggested two years ago. Now that funding has been secured it is likely that work will start in the autumn. Dr Griffiths added: "We have been absolutely amazed at the level of interest. We have been inundated with ideas and people wanting to be involved.

"This area has so many types of landscape, and different areas and themes that we are going to look at.

"It is on the edge of medieval Oxford, which attracted the kind of edgy people who lived on the outskirts of towns, such as the leper colony in Bartlemas, then gradually spreads out into an area which used to be rural, so you get the growth of housing and the beginnings of industry."

Andrew Smith, Oxford East MP said: "This is an inspiring project, truly exciting in bringing together the expertise of Oxford University and the interest of local residents in uncovering Oxford's past."

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Gardeners: time to grow at The Clockhouse

Garden design competiton on page 3

Music lovers: grab your tent!

Chance to win festival goodies. See centre spread

Achieve your goals with Hypnotherapy

Interview with local therapist. See page 6

Things to do during Child Safety Week

Leys Parenting. Turn to page 11

Leys News 74
June 2010

Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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Leys News 75

Out late June/ early July

Copy & Advertising Deadline: June 11

Letter from the Editor

HI EVERYONE,

We hope you enjoyed your first monthly copy of Leys News. This month's is packed with local news and information and we always welcome feedback from our readers, so get in touch and tell us what you think!

This month's centre spread is a guide to summer festivals and music events across the county and gives you the low down on where to go and even what to wear when you get there, courtesy of Sian Jones, our fashion and style guru.

Of course the biggest news to hit the headlines this month has to be Oxford United winning against York City at Wembley. Thousands of fans travelled to the stadium from Oxfordshire and there is no doubt that many Leys News readers were among those who made the journey to London to support our local team.

A good time was definitely had by all, and my two children would be the first to agree as they were lucky enough to go to the big match.

Check out our back page for pictures and a report of the team's parade through Oxford, and watch this space for next season's action from United-it's sure to be exciting!

Keep in touch and have a great month!

Best wishes

Sarah

Leys News Editorial

Meetings will be held at the Boiler Room Cafe, Pegasus Road at 10.30am on June 1 and June 29

Come along and tell us your news, or comment on how we can improve the paper.

ALL WELCOME!

SUBMISSIONS

LEYS NEWS welcomes submissions and ideas for articles and photographs from all sectors of the community. If you would like to send us a press release about your community project please email it to editor@leysnews.co.uk and we will consider it for publication in a future issue.

The next issue of Leys News will be delivered on June 27 and the deadline for advertising and editorial copy is June 11.

Coming soon!
Leys News Classifieds!

LEYS NEWS is planning to offer local businesses and organisations the chance to advertise their businesses in our new classifieds section. Launching in July, this will give you the chance to advertise your business whatever your budget!

For information please email officemanager@leysnews.co.uk

PEGASUS IN THE PARK
FREE EVENT

THE NEW JEWEL in East Oxford's cultural crown is in the final stages before opening its doors to the general public. The first show will take place at Pegasus Theatre's stunning new premises on 4th September 2010 and details of all the theatre's programme of events, activities, projects and open days will be revealed in a special, fun event at Florence Park on Thursday June 3 from 10am to 4pm.

The day will take place in circus style tents and feature taster workshops of activities that will be part of the Pegasus programme from September including street dance workshops, singing and hip hop classes, drama activities, craft sessions and more. The venue's staff will be on hand to encourage people from 6 years old to join in and have fun with space hopper racing, grafitti walls, face painting, circus skills and games.

There will be live entertainment through the day which will finish with a grand balloon release, the winner of which receiving a free pack of goodies!

At 12pm Artistic Director and Chief Executive, Euton Daley and Head of Creative LearningYasmin Sidhwa will present the theatre's plans for the re-opening season.

Are you 50-plus and living on or near the Leys?

Then VOTE in the great CLOCKHOUSE PROJECT ELECTION

The Leys CDI Clockhouse Project raises funds to run activities chosen by local over 50s. We want to know what YOU would like.

Tell us your top 3 choices by 30 June and you could win a PRIZE! All the suggestions below are from local older residents.

You can vote in three ways:

1. Phone (tel: 01865 395908)
2. Email (clockhousecdi@btconnect.com)
3. Post – fill in this form and drop it off at the Clockhouse (or mail to Clockhouse Project Election, Clockhouse Community Centre, Long Ground, Greater Leys, OX4 7FX)

Tick your top 3 choices below:

Money and benefits advice ☐ Model-making ☐
Basic DIY for beginners ☐ Drawing and sketching ☐
Creative Crafts ☐ Try Oil Painting ☐
Learn to play recorder ☐ Pottery ☐
Daytime book club ☐ Monthly quiz ☐
Film shows ☐ Write your life story ☐
Singing for Fun ☐ Storytelling ☐ Film shows ☐
Day trips ☐ Bingo ☐ Drama ☐
Games club (scrabble, dominoes etc) ☐
Research a topic that interests you ☐
Crosswords, sudoku and wordsearch club ☐
Home decorating – Wallpaper and plastering ☐

The activity I would really like is:

I would like some activities in the evening: yes/no/maybe

My name (BLOCK CAPITALS please):

Address:

Tel no:

Tel: Sally (Clockhouse Project, Leys CDI) 01865 395908 for more details.

Leys News Photograph of the Month

This month features a fabulous image of Bure Island taken by Leys News Director Roy Simmonds on a recent holiday to Devon. Roy managed to dodge the rain to capture this scene.

If you would like your photograph to be considered for our monthly slot, please email us editor@leysnews.co.uk
Please ensure that your images are high resolution, ideally 300dpi. Don't forget to send us a caption too and your full name and contact details.

Cartoon by Jane Yates from Wolvercote, Oxford.
To see more of Jane's work please visit: www.wolvercoteartist.co.uk

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Time to grow at The Clockhouse

Competition launched to redesign community garden

A competition has been launched to find The Leys best garden designer so that the garden at The Clockhouse can have a much need makeover.

The Clockhouse Garden Project is a joint venture between the SLIGO gardening club and the Leys CDI's Clockhouse Project, and also involves other organisations based at the Clockhouse Community Centre, including Daybreak's Rosewood Club.

Sally Meachim from The Clockhouse said: "The Clockhouse has a lovely little courtyard garden but its planting really needs updating. Our dream is to create a garden with all-year-round colour and fragrance, that's attractive to wild life, has a sensory area, and perhaps some herbs and easy fruit and vegetables too. We want it to be safe and low-maintenance, somewhere that can be enjoyed safely by all the Clockhouse users, including those with visual impairments and mobility difficulties."

The closing date for entries is Saturday June 26. One design will be chosen as the overall winner, and win a prize, but the organisers will be taking good ideas from all the competition entries.

For more information and an entry form please ring 01865 395908
Or email clockhousecdi@btconnect.com

You can also write to the Clockhouse at:
The Clockhouse Project, Clockhouse Community Centre, Long Ground, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7FX

Step Up for some fun on The Leys

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Angela Walker gets the finishing touches to her painted face at the Step Up event at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.

Step Up was held to provide information and inspiration for anyone who is keen to find out more about recreation, education, training and employment opportunities in the areas.

The event attracted hundreds of visitors from across The Leys at the Leisure Centre, Blackbird Leys Pool and at the Barn in Greater Leys.

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CHILDISH FUN RAISES CASH FOR HOSPICES

CHILDISH THINGS, the extraordinary annual fundraising event for Helen and Douglas House, is returning to the New Theatre Oxford next February, and for the first time ever there will be two shows, doubling the fun and hopefully doubling the amount of money raised for this excellent organisation.

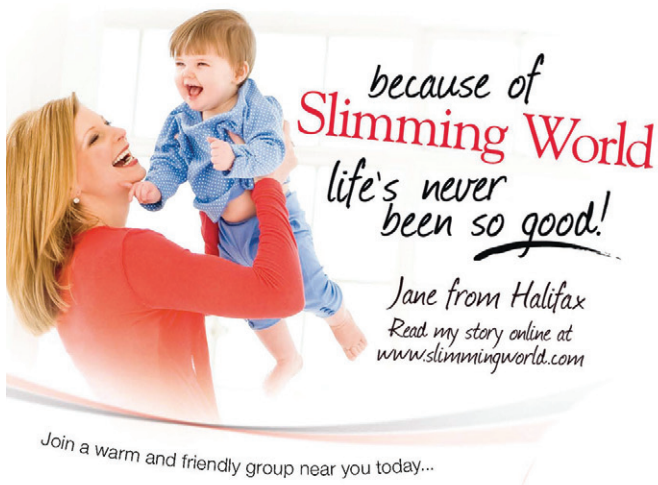
As ever, details of the line up will be revealed closer to the time but this unique event has seen so many stars perform in previous years - Stephen Fry, Jimmy Carr, Bill Bailey, Rowan Atkinson, Rob Brydon, Ruth Jones, Jason Manford and Graham Norton to name but a few - that it is guaranteed to be an unforgettable evening. All proceeds go to Helen and Douglas House, so buy your tickets now to support this local charity.

Tickets can be purchased from the New Theatre box office on George Street, by ringing 0844 847 1585
or by visiting our website at
www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk

Dragons race for charity

Words and picture by Mario Balsamo

ON A CHILLY overcast May morning, hundreds of brave souls wrapped up warm to support the annual Abingdon dragon boat event which every year raises thousands for a wide range of needy causes. There was something for everyone including a belly dancer, BBQ and a beer tent which I inspected out of a sense of duty to the readers!



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Britain's got bangra comes to Oxford

AWARD WINNING Rifco Arts and Theatre Royal Stratford East in association with Warwick Arts Centre present the UK's first Bhangra musical. Bursting with vivacity and joy, Britain's Got Bhangra plays at Oxford Playhouse on Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 June.

Rifco Arts return to Oxford Playhouse following the storming success of Deranged Marriage. This groundbreaking musical tells the story of Twinkle who arrives in the UK fresh from the fields of Punjab, determined to become a star. His musical journey charts the rise in popularity of British Bhangra music, from the sequin clad 80s through to the RnB fusion of the current charts.

Britain's Got Bhangra opened at Theatre Royal Stratford East to rave reviews hailing a new life and sound in the world of British musicals. This show is set to spread Bhangra fever throughout the UK. The score encapsulates traditional bhangra, bollywood and hip-hop, energising the audience with infectious vitality. The production is over-flowing with colourful costumes and set pieces, in a vivid story guaranteed to enthrall audiences of all ages.

Britain's Got Bhangra has been developed by the best of theatrical and musical talent including composer Sumeet Chopra who has written music for many bhangra world stars and Bollywood Movies. Writer Pravesh Kumar is Artistic Director of Rifco Arts and the talent behind numerous hit shows including The Deranged Marriage. The creative team also includes lyricist Dougal Irvine whose award winning musical Departure Lounge has recently been performed in New York and acclaimed Bollywood Choreographer Andy Kumar.

This lively family show is guaranteed to having you dancing in the aisles – a perfect early summer treat.

WIN! Tickets up for grabs!
Leys News readers have the chance to win tickets to see Britain's Got Bhangra.
To be in with a chance all you have to do is answer the following question: Who composed the music for Britain's Got Bhangra?
The answer can be found in the preview on this page.
Please send you answers to:
Britain's Got Bhangra Competiton
Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green
Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX

The closing date for entries is June 5

Tickets for Britain's Got Bhangra at Oxford Playhouse are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or book online at www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

MINI Plant Oxford helps launch CIAO! Ark's maiden voyage.

CIAO The Children's International Arts Organisation has joined forces with MINI Plant Oxford to launch an innovative arts and environmental science project in ten Oxfordshire primary schools and with local community groups.

The project culminates this month with the Ark, a large-scale public art installation, being positioned on the front lawn of Oxford University's Museum of Natural History for a five-day celebration of low carbon living.

MINI Plant Oxford supports a range of local community activities and with the support of Oxford Inspires, the city's cultural agency, have made this partnership possible. Hundreds of Oxfordshire primary school children were first captivated by the car manufacturer when they learned about the development of the 100 per cent electric, zero-emissions MINI E at the Children's Climate Change Conference, held at the Shedonian Theatre when the Ark project was launched in January.

For further information on the CIAO! Ark Project visit www.ciaofestival.org.uk

Megan's music scene

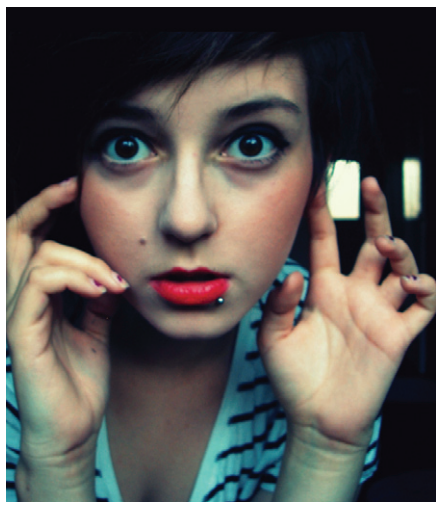
"Hiya! I'm Megan Howard, I'm 16 and I'm an aspiring music journalist. I'm trying my very hardest to get into the business at this age and, surprisingly, I like to think I'm doing alright so far!

I'm running my own blog and writing for this paper - it's all good experience and I'm extremely excited to be involved! This really is a big hobby of mine in life; writing about music (even though I lack the skills to play many instruments...)

I'm really enthusiastic about music; I'm a big fan of the 70's/80's punk scene, but I think my favourite band of all time has got to be Joy Division. My favourite new bands around at the moment include: Two Door Cinema Club, Frankie & The Heartstrings, Jonquil and Fenech-Soler.

Thanks for reading, and I hope you all enjoy reading any articles of mine in the future!"

loveirethensong.blogspot.com



Foals - Total Life Forever album review

When you say 'Oxford' to someone, you instantaneously think three things; Radiohead, universities and snobs. Soon, Foals will be one of the first things you think of. They're beginning to become one of the most influential bands of the last decade, and thanks to debut album 'Antidotes' sealing Foals as one of dance-punk-math-rock heroes, it was always going to be a hard task with the follow up album. What is it they call it? Oh yes, 'second album syndrome'. Luckily, Foals must have taken the jab for that particular illness... 'Total Life Forever' is a cracker.

Opening song 'Blue Blood' - and same goes with 'Alabaster' and '2 Trees' - gives you a whole new view on vocalist Yannis Phillapakis. His voice is vulnerable, heartbreaking, emotional and shaky - things we never really had the chance to hear before in any of the songs on 'Antidotes', suggesting that Foals have both grown up lyrically and musically.

When it comes to songs like 'Miami', 'Black Gold', 'This Orient' and 'Total Life Forever', however, you can see the old Foals peeking through, with the usual enormous catchy choruses and enough funk to make you stand up wherever you are and dance like there's no tomorrow...

'Spanish Sahara' is a completely different matter. It utterly mauls your mind, body and soul. The sluggish, almost silent start with Yannis' voice in it's purest form, then with a sprinkle of Jack Bevans tinkley drumming, added with a toss of gentle guitar; all of this leads up to a chemical reaction of a chorus... it erupts into your ears. And with appropriate lyrics like: "I'm the ghost in the back of your head", you can do nothing but agree. 'Spanish Sahara' is the stand out song of the album; prepare to be haunted.

Thank God for song 'Fugue'. It's the 49 second, well needed breather that comes half way through the album; 'What Remains' is like old Foals tune 'Tron' hit round the face by puberty; 'After Glow' is heartbreakingly vulnerable and contains the lyric: "you were better than whatever came before". 'Total Life Forever' on the whole is clearly better than whatever came before.

And so, the pure emotional intensity of this album makes it irresistible. Admittedly, you might not completely understand it upon first listening, but give it a chance and it just might be your album of 2010.

Getting back to my roots

"I am Natty Mark and my interest is to pass on the joy of Roots Reggae music. To introduce the general public to other great singers, apart from Bob Marley. Singers like Burning Spear, Bim Sherman, Joseph Hill and Prince Lincoln. Great musicians like Tommy McCook and Flabba Holt. Great producers such as Roy Cousins and Jack Ruby, And Lee Scratch Perry. It was doubly special for me to perform and write the review of his celebration in this month's issue. Not only because he's a great songwriter and producer, but because as a former member of Dubwiser, we supported him for three nights at the Jazz Cafe in Camden Town, London. I still remember the few words I said to him, but I can't remember his reply. I just stood there staring into the face of history, then he was gone and the spell was broken!

"Roots Reggae has something for the head, the heart and the feet. From Lee Scratch Perry to Afrikan Simba. For you and I."

Natty Hi-Fi @ Foundation Fridays, East Oxford Community Centre. A Lee Scratch Perry Celebration.

DJs Tony Dread and Garvin Dan gave us gem after gem, classic following classic. The precious and the priceless, from the Lee Perry treasure chest. The Congos, the Wailers - Junior Murvin too.

The photographer for the evening, Ras Nhamburo, couldn't stop dancing, neither could Ibrahim. People joining in, making contributions. A young woman with a shaker, Ingrid shaking the tambourine, and J.J.with cowbell and stick. They had all come to pay homage to a man Bob Marley called a genius, Lee Scratch Perry, 74 years old.

Elder Shumba and the man called Prince gave us salutations on the microphone with their positive lyrics, invoking God and peace. Antonio with sticks and myself on Jembe drum.

For the man who is the living history of Jamaican musict the legend of the Black Ark Studio who gave us the gold of Max Romeo, the rarer stone of Junior Byles. We marvelled and we danced. A full blessing was received by all. We shall do the same next year. To pay homage again, to the Genius, still playing live at 75.

Business and Enterprise

If you would like to sponsor this page, please email editor@leysnews.co.uk or call 01865 711756

Winning ways to help your business at SkillsFest

A free networking event offering training taster sessions and the chance to speak to business experts, is planned for The Kassam Stadium on June 29.

SkillsFest 2010 will be hosted by The Oxfordshire Economic Partnership and is the second in a series of free networking events.

The event is sponsored by Richardsons Chartered Accountants, and will give visitors the opportunity to receive free one-hour training sessions.

Last year's event saw taster sessions in business improvement techniques, developing excellent leaders, improving your selling techniques, business development skills, managing stress at work and communication skills.

Each session will run in the morning and again in the afternoon - times will be listed on the booking form, which will be available shortly.

Visitors will also be able to attend one of the informative presentations or workshops that will be running on the day:

Last year there were presentations on:

- Personal Effectiveness Tools to help you succeed.
- Presentation Skills - a participative demonstration.
- Increasing competitiveness through Innovation Skills Development.
- Leadership and Management Funding.
- Apprenticeships.

Training organisations will be available on the day to offer advice.

SkillsFest 2009, launched by Kelvin Thomas, Chairman of Oxford United, attracted over 70 employees who registered for the free courses ranging from personalised business mentoring, presentations on apprenticeships, leadership and management funding from Business Link and training courses across areas such as marketing, communications and sales.

Henry Riley-Collins, founder of family business Innovative Technologies speaking about why he attended the event said: "We need better organisation in the company - without sound business resources the organisation will struggle so I have come here to take advantage of specific courses."

As well as the free taster sessions available there were 30 training organisations including Colleges of Further Education, promoting their course offerings and giving advice to visitors.

Ben Jackson, Vice President PR of Toastmasters, a network of Oxfordshire Speakers Clubs who train members to communicate effectively, said at the event: "From Toastmasters perspective we have made at least three solid strategic connections with other exhibitors, taken away details of over a dozen people interested in attending a meeting, interestingly enough largely from Abingdon where the club has struggled to recruit. This outcome exceeded our expectations."

Business support networks Business Link, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of Directors were on hand to offer invaluable advice to potential members.

For information about SkillsFest 2010 and a booking form, email david.doughty@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Exhibitors at last year's Skillfest.

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Organised by the Clockhouse Project (Leys CDI) in partnership with Oxford Lieder, supported by The Patsy Wood Trust.

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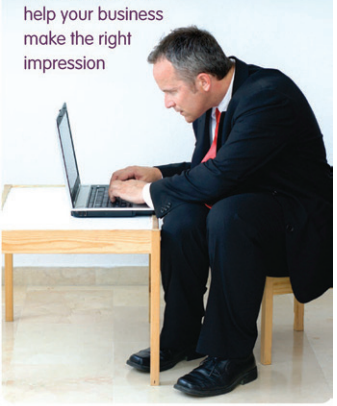

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Achieving your goals with Hypnotherapy

The Leys is home to a growing number of innovative businesses and entrepreneurs who often beaver away at their businesses from home. This month, Katie Chester speaks to Mena Brimblecombe about her therapy business. If you have an interesting business and would like to share your story with Leys News readers, please email us editor@leysnews.co.uk

What do you do?
I am a Qualified Counsellor and Hypnotherapist.

What exactly does that involve?
I get the opportunity to work with a varied number of clients, dealing with weight management, self esteem, bereavement and many more issues. Hypnotherapy is a way to get to the root of the issue, generally more quickly than counselling alone can. I have also trained in a technique called Emotional Freedom Technique. Put simply it's acupuncture without the use of needles. With a combination of skills I work with my clients in a way they feel comfortable, and is best for them to get the results they want.

How did you get started?
I suppose like a lot of people you get to a certain time in your life and start to question what the future holds. When I made the decision to look for a new focus in my life, I wasn't sure what that would be, but I think fate showed me the opportunity that was right for me.

I happened to see an advert for training as a Counsellor/ Psychotherapist, which I applied for, had my interview and before I knew it, I was studying and learning something that, for me, has been amazing.

Describe a typical day
Every day is different. I may be working with anything from fear of flying, or weight issues to exam nerves. That's what I love about my work, it's not only an opportunity to meet some fabulous people, but to help them to achieve their goals is so satisfying. I may just be part of their journey, but whatever small part I play, I give 100 per cent.

What are the highs and lows of working for yourself?
Working for yourself is liberating in that you can make the decisions that are right for you, but it can also be hard work knowing there is only you to rely on. I think the one thing I have learnt is to ask for support. Joining the Leys Business Women's Network has given me that support and friendship and reminded me that I am doing a worthwhile job, and luckily one that I love.

To find out more visit Mena Brimblecombe's website: www.changesforliving.co.uk or phone 01865 715785 / 07879071290 for an informal chat.

Leys residents will receive 20% discount off the usual hourly rate.

Women's Business Network update

The Women's Business Network is for any woman who has an interest in business, whether you have an established business, or are considering it for the first time. It's a fun, friendly and supportive group that meets once a month to share ideas, network and hear from experienced speakers who share their expertise with the group.

Please get in touch if you would be interested in attending a day time or weekend session of Women's Business Network, with crèche option.

The women's business network meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30 – 9pm at 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, OX4 7BX.

Come along – you'll be very welcome.

Programme

June 1: PR on a shoestring, with Sarah Edwards, editor of Leys News and PR consultant for small businesses..

July 6: Everything you wanted to know about tax but were afraid to ask – your chance to question friendly tax advisors

August: networking evening coming in the autumn – using the internet effectively to market your business – a series of talks and workshops – details coming soon.

Contact: leysbusinesswomen@yahoo.co.uk
or join us on facebook (Women's Business Network, Greater Leys and Blackbird Leys) and twitter (www.twitter.com/leysbizwomen) - or just turn up!

Getting creative in the community

Words and picture by **Donna Joy**

LOCAL RESIDENTS had a chance to express themselves in three community projects coordinated and organised by Sally Meachim and The Leys CDI Clockhouse project.

The local community organisations got together to present the work they had completed during courses run for the over 50's Project at the beginning of May. They were the Blackbird Leys Art Group, arts and crafts run by Tanya Prescott, oil painting classes run by local artist Amelia and the Joined Up Singing group. Liz and Janet brought residents together to sing their hearts out.

Funding for Express Yourself came from the Government's Transformation Fund. This is a fund which supports informal learning activities all over the country. Additional funding has been provided by Blackbird Leys Parish Council and OCHA.

Local music organisation Oxford Lieder is supporting Leys CDI Clockhouse Project to run six more drop-in singing for the Fun for Over 50s sessions. They will happen every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30 at the Clockhouse, from 8 June to 13 July, led by Liz and Janet from Joined Up Singing.

Sally Meachim said: "Without these grants we would not have been able to run the project which involved over 100 local. Over-50s in a whole range of creative activities, so we are very grateful for this support and it made a real difference."

GET A ROUND IN THIS SUMMER!

WHAT BETTER WAY to spend a summers evening than chilling in the park with your mates and playing a bit of rounders!

The newly formed Oxford Rounders Club is up and running for the summer, starting from Wednesday 9 June from 6.30pm until 8pm in South Park (St Clements entrance) and continuing through until September.

Last year Rounders in the Park was a huge success, attracting over 50 people back to the game, none of whom had played since school with some picking up a bat and ball for the first time in over 20 years!

This year there are matches lined up with teams across the county, and the chance to get involved in a social tournament in September.

The sessions are completely free to attend, and equipment and coaching is provided. Just bring yourself and a willingness to have a go! It's open to all who are aged over 18.

For more information contact Abbie at aclare@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252720 or check out www.getoxfordshireactive.org

WALKING FOR MIND

RACHEL PEGLER, 43, from Greater Leys, will take part in a seven mile sponsored walk on Sunday June 27 to raise money for Oxfordshire MIND. Rachel is also undertaking a trek to Slovenia as part of a fundraising programme over the next 12 months that will include street collections and musical events.

To sponsor Rachel, please phone Nicky Clargo on 01865 263733. Funds raised for Oxfordshire MIND will help provide vital services for people who are experiencing mental and emotional problems such as anxiety, bereavement, depression, life crisis, loneliness, recovery from breakdowns, panic attacks, post-natal depression, stress and schizophrenia.

WI puts best foot forward

THE LEYS WI is planning a series of walks this summer, and kicked things off with a walk from Greater Leys to Dorchester on Thames.

Following the roman road through Toot Baldon and Berinsfield they arrived at Dorchester in time to relax in the Abbey gardens before catching a very welcome bus back to Greater Leys.

The WI offers a wide variety of activities and recently had a fascinating talk by Karen Hewitt about how Oxford came to be twinned with Perm in Russia. Perm was described as the most easterly city in Europe and has had temperatures this winter of -39 degrees, making our winter seem positively mild.

Members also formed a quiz team to take part in a competition with over 40 WIs from around Oxfordshire. It was a fun evening and the Leys' team was pleased to come only four points behind the winners!

The Leys WI would love to welcome new members. The main meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Clockhouse, Greater Leys.

If you would like to find out more then e-mail theleyswi@yahoo.co.uk or ring Rachel Fisher on 07863 563583.

Green Fingers

By Stuart Mabbutt

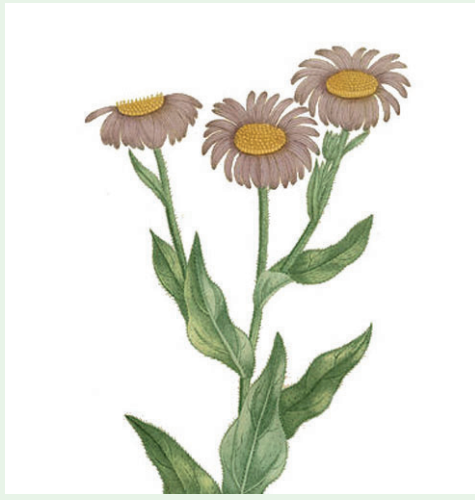
Annuals: hardy and half hardy

THE GARDEN CENTRES have been packed with people buying plants to add to their bedding plant displays in borders and hanging baskets like Marigolds, Lobelia and Nemesia.

Which is the foundation for this months scribbling. People are often confused with difference between Half Hardy Annuals and Hardy Annuals.

A Half Hardy Annual is basically grown from seed in late winter or early spring ready for summer and autumn flowering. As such it germinates, flowers and dies in one single season.

As they are frost sensitive, they are grown initially in a greenhouse before being planted out. It also dies off quickly in the autumn when the first frosts appear.

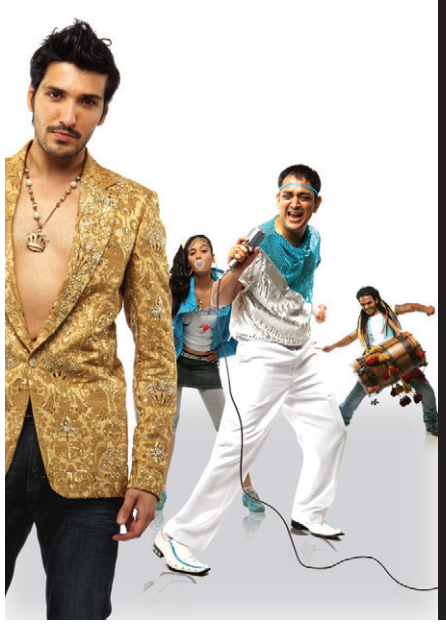


Hardy Annuals can be sown in the ground in late winter or even the previous autumn ready to flower in spring, summer and autumn. So they have a slightly longer flowering period than Half Hardy Annuals. When the first frosts come after its flowering season Hardy Annuals will die too. Not necessarily because it can't cope with frosts like the Half Hardy cousins, more because it is programmed in its genes to die once it has flowered and seeded.

Half Hardy types again include Marigold, Lobelia and Nemisia as mentioned, but also Aster and Salvia. Hardy Annuals include Godetia, Alyssum and Cornflower.

Hope this helps you successfully grow and extend the flowering period that your bedding displays last for.

Happy gardening.



Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 June

Rifco Arts and Royal Stratford East in association with Warwick Arts Centre present

Britain's Got Bhangra

Shake your shoulders, twist that lightbulb; This is the story of how Britain got bhangra!

...a delight that brings the audience to its feet **** Guardian

A charge of positive feeling that keeps you buzzing long after you leave the theatre Times

Ticket prices: From £11.50 (discounts available)

CAP AD

Captioned performance
Thu 10 Jun 7.30pm
Audio described
Sat 12 Jun 2.30pm
Touch tour at 1pm

OP
OXFORD PLAYHOUSE

01865 305305
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Looking good . . . festival style!

We may be lurching out of recession, but for anyone keen to have fun on a budget, camping provides the ultimate staycation. Sleeping under the stars is also the perfect way to enjoy this summer's music events.

Camping used to evoke undesirable thoughts of soggy clothes and dishevelled hair. However, thanks to the surge in glamping (glamorous camping) the great outdoors and style have finally come together.

On the make up and beauty front less is definitely more. Here are a few essential tips to keep you looking good while enjoying the great outdoors:

- All-in-one face wipes are handy and save valuable packing space. They can be used to keep skin fresh and clean when showers are not exactly an option!
- Thick layers of foundation first thing in the morning is not a good look; use a tinted moisturiser containing SPF to give you a healthy glow and a welcome moisture boost!
- To avoid bad hair days use dry shampoo to keep your tresses smelling and looking great.
- Make up should be kept to a minimum because streaky eyes are never a good look. A tinted moisturiser, long stay mascara and a slick of lip gloss or lip balm are all you need to look great.
- Don't forget to take a bottle of antibacterial hand wash or hand spray with you to keep fresh and germ free. Antibaterial wipes are also good to keep at hand for when hygiene in the toilets has reached an all time low!
- Instead of taking regular sized bottles of products with you, stock up on mini sizes of your favourite brands.
- Don't forget toilet roll!
- All in one products that act as hand and body lotions as well as facial moisturisers and after sun treatments are a beauty bonus!

Here is our pick of some of the top products for festivals this year

- Colorsport's long lasting make-up products are perfect, particularly the 30 Day Mascara and 24 Hour Eyeliner which allow you to create sexy make-up that won't smudge or streak. The 24 Hour Eyeliner is £6.99 and the 30 Day Mascara is £7.49, available at Boots, Asda and Superdrug.
- Colgate Palmolive's On the Go minis are a complete range of body and oral care products designed to fit into the smallest of spaces.
- Palmolive Naturals Nourishing Shower Milk, Colgate Total Advanced Clean Toothpaste and Palmolive Soft & Gentle Eden Passion Flower Roll On all 99p each.
- Colgate Plax Multi-Protection Softmint Mouthwash 60ml - RRP 89p
- MiltonAntibacterial Hand Gel is clinically proven to kill bacteria including salmonella and listeria and doesn't require any water so you can use it anywhere. Simply pop a thumbnail size amount in your palm and rub hand together until dry.
- Oxfordshire-based skincare range Yin Yang do an all-weather multipurpose face and body lotion called pH-Amino Gold Defence Lotion. It protects from sun and wind with its rich Vitamin E content and balances skin's pH - preventing post-festival breakouts. Super-light and no greasy residue at all, it twists shut so as not to spill in your bag. £16 a bottle from Holland & Barrett stores nationwide.
- Eco Lips are makers of the finest in organic lip balms. Using a combination of organic ingredients and essential oils the lip balms moisturise and soothe, whilst adding 15 times your natural sun protection with SPF 15. The lip balm features an aluminum carabineer clip, which is ideal for clipping to your festival kit, tent, wristband or anything, for a quick fix! £3.99
- The natural and organic hand sanitizers from EO are plant based and Ideal when on the go as they are easily slipped into a pocket. Sprays available in lavender and refreshing peppermint from £3 each.

Eco Lips and EO hand sprays are available from www.forever-natural.co.uk

Favourite festivals for the summer

Whether you are a classical music fan, a lover of rock or just enjoy being outside and listening to live music, Oxfordshire has some great festivals to choose from this summer. Most of the events are family friendly, have camping facilities and promise a weekend of fun, great music and relaxation. Here is our pick of the bunch to get the festival season off to a flying start. Grab your picnic and your tent...it's party time!

Out to Graze Festival
June 11-13
Fir Tree Country Park, Warmington, near Banbury
If reggae, hip hop, drum and bass or dub is your kind of thing then Out to Graze is the festival for you this summer. Headliners The Nextmen will be joined by local talent from Oxford's roots reggae band Makating. A diverse festival and worth a visit. Tickets £50 visit the website for more details and to book.
www.outtograze.com

Wittfest
June 18-20
The Plough, Long Wittenham
A charity music event that started in 2000 as a small, one-off benefit gig for a charity supported by local musicians, but it quickly expanded into the three-day event it is today.

The entire event is funded up-front by sponsorship, and by pre-festival raffles held at The Drones' regular Wednesday night music sessions at The Plough. This allows organisers to give as much as possible of the proceeds to charities.
www.wittfest.org.uk

Cornbury Festival
July 3-4
Cornbury Park, Charlbury
Now in its seventh year, The Cornbury Festival continues to pull in the crowds.

The line up this year includes Reef, Candi Staton, The Feeling, David Gray and Dr John, as well as Jackson Browne.

Tickets for the weekend for adults are from £95. Under 12's are free. Book your tickets on the website.
www.cornburyfestival.com

Cowley Road Carnival
July 3-4
Cowley Road, Oxford
The ultimate family friendly community event for east Oxford has just received funding to make sure that this year's event is bigger and better than ever!

Music, street performances and a fabulous procession are all part of the carnival mix.
www.cowleyroadcarnival.co.uk

Henley Festival
July 7-11
Straight after the famous regatta is the Henley festival. Packed with a light mix of classical music, rock, pop, jazz, opera and folk music, the festival is famous for its floating stage and headliners include artists such as Will Young and Ronan Keating.

Indulge in fine art, fine food, music, comedy, and fireworks. Tickets from £35.
www.henley-festival.co.uk

Battle Proms at Blenheim Palace
July 17
Woodstock
Before the afternoon's entertainment begins, there's time to enjoy all the fun of the traditional fairground stalls and visit the fascinating Napoleonic encampment. While you settle down to enjoy your picnic, the music begins with the lively jazz band Cambridge Jazz Co. The historic rumble of the Spitfire engine will accompany the beautiful opening pieces of the evening musical programme, as a meticulously choreographed aerial display is executed in the skies over the concert arena.

Adult tickets from £35, gates open at 4.30pm
www.battleproms.com

2010 Truck Festival
July 23-25
Hill Farm, Steventon near Abingdon
Truckfest is probably one of Oxfordshire's coolest festivals. Headliners for the Saturday night are Mew but you can get the party started early by buying a special ticket allowing camping on the Friday and the chance to see a small selection of bands and DJs. Adult tickets are £80 for the weekend.
www.thisistruck.com

Fairport's Cropredy Convention
August 12-14
Cropredy near Banbury
Fancy a bit of laid back folk and rock? Then head to Cropredy for the weekend. They have been doing it for years and it is one of Oxfordshire's oldest music festivals, dating back to 1976.

Status Quo are this year's biggest name and they are headlining on the Thursday night.

One not to be missed! Weekend tickets for adults are £85.
www.fairportconvention.com

80's Rewind Festival
August 20-22
Henley-on-Thames
If you are stuck in the eighties then this is the festival for you! Retro music lovers will be flocking to Rewind to enjoy delights such as Boy George, Rick Astley, T'Pau and 10cc.

Tickets for an adult weekend pass are £85
www.rewindfestival.com

Towersey Festival
August 26-30
Towersey
Five days and seven stages full of folk music is what Towersey is all about! Bellowhead are joined by Kan, Chris Wood, Andy Cutting and the Dhol Foundation.

Visitors can also enjoy crafts, dancing and singing. Adult weekend tickets with camping are £104.
www.towerseyfestival.com

Festival style for everyone!

Festival season is fast approaching. Weather you're a rock chick, a pop babe or a drum and base diva there's a festival, and a festival style for everyone. By Fashion writer Sian Jones

THE KEY TO festival style is to nail that effortless 'just got out of my tent look.' Keep makeup minimal and natural. As for hair, you won't have your GHDs on hand, so the easiest thing to do it to embrace the messy look. A high bun or a low side pony will keep your hair off your face. If you do tie your hair back, keep it loose, not only does it make your style look more relaxed, but it's much more comfortable anyway.

Maxi dresses are light, breezy and perfect for body shy girls as they provide coverage without looking frumpy. An alternative to the maxi dress is the maxi skirt, always wear with a fitted top so that you don't get swamped in material. www.boohoo.com has a great range of maxis this year.

A large, floppy, retro sunhat has practically mixed with chic - what more could you want? The large brim will shield you from the sun while still looking stylish and sophisticated. Or if these hats are too extravagant for you, try a quirky straw trilby loved by celebrities such as The Saturday's Frankie Sandford. You can get a Primark trilby for just £3.

Footwear wise, look no further than fail safe gladiator sandals. They have been a summer favourite for a few years running now and it's not hard to see why. They go with literally everything. For an affordable pair, try New Look as their sandals start from £12. If the British weather takes a turn for the worst and the mosh pit gets a little muddy, then chuck on a pair of cute wellies. You can get pretty patterned ones or funny slogan ones. Mr Shoes is a good place to start.

When picking your festival wardrobe, don't forget denim cut offs. They are funky and versatile, casual and cool. Go super short with if you're brave enough. Ripped shorts with frayed ends give a relaxed rock chick look. Or you could even do it yourself with an old pair of jeans.

Once your wardrobe is sorted, don't forget other festival essentials. Face wipes, dry shampoo and hand sanitizer are all necessary to stay as fresh and clean as possible. To finish your look add huge diva style sunglasses to protect eyes and hide hangovers. Grab your tent, you're festival ready!

Fight against festival fraudsters

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS Trading Standards Service is warning consumers to guard themselves against fraudsters when buying tickets online for forthcoming summer concerts and festivals.

Trading Standards has already started to receive complaints from consumers who think they may have purchased tickets from untrustworthy websites.

Profiting at your expense

During June and July last year Oxfordshire Trading Standards received complaints from consumers concerned about tickets they had purchased with the cost of these tickets totalling over £4,500.

Richard Webb, Acting Head of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service said, "There is always huge demand for tickets to the top concerts and festivals. Unfortunately there are criminals out there who prey on this demand with promises of tickets that ultimately leave consumers disappointed and out of pocket.

"It is not difficult to be taken in by some of these con websites as they can look very professional. If you are looking to buy tickets for an event, then try and do as much homework as you can on the website beforehand. Report any suspicious traders or websites to Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845."

Top Tips to avoid festival fraudsters:

- Beware of sites selling tickets to events that have not gone on sale or that guarantee tickets to events that have been sold out for months.
- Put the website name into an internet search engine to see what you can find out.
- Make sure the company behind the website provides a full street address for their business, not just a Post Office or mail box number. And try its UK landline phone number.
- Be wary of buying from a site that only gives an email address or mobile phone number. Just because a website ends in '.co.uk', it does not necessarily mean that it is based in the UK.
- Where no limited company name and number is given on the web site, the customer should contact the trader in advance of the purchase and request true ownership details. If the trader won't give these, stay away from the site.
- Ask for details: What type of seat/ticket are you buying? What is the face value of the ticket? How much is the ticket being sold for and are there any additional charges? When will the ticket be dispatched and how will you be notified? What happens if things go wrong? What is the company's policy on refunds?
- Pay for tickets by credit card. Under the Consumer Credit Act, your card issuer is jointly liable for the failure to provide goods or services if the cash price of a single ticket is over £100.
- Visit the Trading Standards website for details of the latest scams: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/latestscams

COMPETITION!

Fabulous festival goodies up for grabs!

Hard core festival goers have all the gear they need for a weekend of music, fun and relaxation, but if your tent has seen better days or you have forgotten those festival essentials then Leys News can help!

Together with our friends at Wilkinsons, we are delighted to be able to offer a fabulous festival prize in this month's competition.

We have a festival pack to give away that includes, facial wipes, antibacterial hand wash, sun cream, a tent and sleeping bag! Just add a picnic and some friends and you have all you need for a great weekend away!

To be in with a chance of winning this great prize, just tell us the date of this year's Cowley Road Carnival. Send your answer to: Festival Competition, Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX. The closing date is June 18

FAMILY FRIENDLY FESTIVALS: advice for a fun weekend...kids included!

There is something magical about sleeping out under the stars, and kids love being out in the open air. With more and more family friendly festivals popping up every year, camping out is a great way for families to have fun together. If you are planning to take the children on an adventure in the great outdoors or to a festival this year, follow these tips to make sure all your open air adventures run smoothly.

Top tips for tots at festivals:

- Always make sure you bring a tent that has enough room to accommodate your family and your luggage. It's a good idea to practice putting the tent up in the garden to avoid mishaps or stress on the day.
- Ensure your tent has a double layered skin so that you and your belongings don't get soaked.
- Pick the right tent for your needs. Do you want bedrooms and a large living space or just a place to sleep?
- Do not take too much food, remember space is limited. Bring basic food supplies that still look appetising after a few days to save you from doing constant trips to food stalls or shops.
- Bring a large, colourful, original flag to erect next to your tent; this will help you find your tent when you have hundreds of identical ones surrounding you! Why not have some fun with this and get the kids to design a family flag!
- Bring lots of cleaning materials such as anti-bacterial hand gel and wet wipes, these will help you stay hygienic around the site.
- Bring sound dampeners or ear plugs for your children, the noise levels at festivals can be high and these will allow your children to be safe.
- Bring a permanent marker to write down your mobile number and campsite on your kids' wristbands just in case they get lost.
- Bring a basic first aid kit for small emergencies.
- Bring a picnic blanket for you to relax on or for impromptu picnics - it also gives you somewhere nice to sit while watching some live music.

The Cowley Road Carnival returns July 3-4.

What's On at The Leys Children's Centre

June 2010

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cuddesdon Corner **01865 773263** **(Linked with Orchard Meadow School 01865 778609)**	**Cakes and Pastry*** Starting 14 June 10.00 am - 11.30 am Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **Stay & Play for Babies, dads, mums & carers** 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Contact Mikko Enticknap 01865 773263 **Help with Reading, Writing and Spelling*** 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **Legal Advice Direct** 1.00 pm - 4.30 pm Contact Valerie O'Malley 01865 779615 to make an appointment **The Listening Centre** 12.30 pm - 9.00 pm Phone 01865 794794	**PEEP for 1s #** 9.30am - 10.30 am Call 01865 395145 **Sparklers** Every other Tuesday 10.00 am - 11.30 am Contact Ruth Donaldson 01865 779615 **Stay & Play** with lunch (small fee) 11.00 am - 2.00 pm **Speech and Language Advice available** 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm **Job Centre Plus** 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm See Joumana at Cuddesdon Corner **The Listening Centre** 5.00 pm - 9.00 pm	**Food Safety Course*** Starting 30 June 9.15 am - 1.15 pm Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **Manicure, Pedicure and Eyebrow Tinting*** Starting 28 April 9.30 am - 11.30 am Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **ESOL group*** Starting 28 April 9.30 am - 11.30 am Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **Midwife Clinic** for post natal and baby checks, support and advice 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm - drop-in or phone 01865 221696 for an appointment **The Listening Centre** 5.00 pm - 9.00 pm	**Family Links*** Starting 10 June 9.30 am - 11.30 am Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **Agnes Smith Advice Centre** (for advice on benefits, money advice and debt) 10.00 am - 1.00 pm. Contact Jackie Knight 01865 770206 Also for details of other drop-in sessions **Introduction to Healthy Eating and Nutrition*** Starting 17 June 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615 **The Listening Centre** 5.00 pm- 9.00 pm	**The Breastfeeding Café** For pregnant and feeding mums 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Contact Camille Kalaja 0789 995 8316 **Stay & Play** with lunch (small fee) 11.00 am - 2.00 pm # For information on other PEEP groups in the area contact 01865 395145
Orchard Meadow **01865 778609**				**Cooking and Coffee** Contact Carole Pether 01865 778609 **Getting Ready for School*** Starting 10 June. 1pm - 3pm. Anne Wells 01865 779615	
Pegasus **01865 777175**		**Family Links*** 9.30 am - 11.30 am Contact Carol Caufield 01865 777175	**Stay and Play** 9.00 am - 11.30 am **Stay and Play** 12.45 pm - 3.00 pm		
Windale **01865 777796**	**Stay and Play** 9.30am – 11.00am contact Nicky Solomon 01865 777796		**Sewing Circle*** 9.00am – 11.00am Contact Nicky Solomon 01865 777796	**PEEP for 1s** 9.30am – 10.30am Call 01865 395145 **Creative Group*** 1.30pm – 2.45pm contact Nicky Solomon 01865 777796 (small fee for materials)	**Parents Coffee Morning** 9.00am – 11.00am
Leys Health Centre	**Infant Feeding Talks** For pregnant women 9.30am – 10.30am To book an appointment contact Camille Kalaja on 01865 788688	**Baby Massage** for babies from 8 weeks old 1.00pm – 2.00pm Contact Linda Picton 01865 788688			

Saturday

Dad's Zone
10.00am - 1.30pm. Contact Conroy Harris 0777 540 7524

Maluchy - Little Ones
10.00 - 11.00 am. For information contact 07951 263 191 (English) or 07874 187 704 (Polish)

Coming Soon...

Single sessions starting in September
- Personal Safety Awareness
- Healthy Cooking
- First Aid
- Managing Your Child's Behaviour
- Entry to Working in Childcare

For more details contact Anne Wells on 01865 779615

DON'T FORGET!

Child Safety Week
21 - 25 June 2010
Ask for a copy of the activities taking place
Phone Valerie on 01865 779615

***CHILDCARE AVAILABLE**

Children's Centres for families in Oxfordshire

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Find more information on our website
www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Working for you

Sure Start

If you would like to sponsor this page, please email editor@leysnews.co.uk or call 01865 711756

Leys Parenting

Talk to me baby!

What was your baby's first word? That's what Cuddesdon Corner would like to find out during half term, which is Talking with your Baby Week. You can pick up a free information pack on talking to babies and take part in a display on babies' first words.

LIZ ATTENBOROUGH of the National Literacy trust explains why talking to babies is so important, "Learning to talk is one of the most important and complex skills a child accomplishes.

It seems to happen naturally but in fact, parents and carers have a very important role to play. Babies learn to talk by listening to and copying their parents, so it's vital that parents and carers talk to their babies as much as possible."

To celebrate Talk to Your Baby Week there will be a special Teddy Bear's Picnic in the garden at Cuddesdon Corner on Wednesday June 2 from 11am – 2pm. There will be free lunch boxes for children and lunch will be available for parents and carers for a small fee. Bring a teddy bear!

You can also pick up your information pack from Templar's Square shopping centre on Tuesday June 1, the Health Visitor drop in clinic at the Dunnock way health centre on Thursday June 3 or Stay and Play at Cuddesdon Corner on Friday June 4.

On Friday June 4 Cuddesdon Corner is also holding a dummy exchange where any child who hands in their dummy will receive a gift in return.

It can be hard to give up your dummy but it's best to stop using it after twelve months to allow speech development.

The dummy exchange is a chance to mark the occasion as an important step in growing up.

If you can't make June 4, your child can exchange their dummy any Tuesday between 12 – 1pm.

There's lots to do during Child Safety Week

THE Leys Children's Centre is supporting National Child Safety Week with activities on Tuesday 22 June and Wednesday 23 June to help us all learn about preventing serious accidents.

The theme of this years Child Safety Week is Make time for safety. Activities include a fire engine and ambulance visit, first aid sessions, the NHS health bus and home safety advice and activities.

Everyone attending events will receive a voucher for a free home safety pack and there will be a free lunch and refreshments on the health bus both days.

All of these events will bring together parents, children and carers to learn about the real risks facing children, how to prevent accidents and how to make time for safety. It's hard for parents to stay one step ahead of children who are developing fast and have endless amounts of energy but it only takes a few minutes a day to think about safety in the home or on the road.

Angela Smith, Children's Centre health visitor said: "There are simple quick steps we can take to prevent serious accidents, for example fitting a smoke alarm and checking it each week, moving a hot drink out of a toddlers way, moving a kettle to the back of the work surface, locking medicines and household cleaners away and always using the correct car seat for the age of your child, so why not make safety a habit?"

To find out more about activities on The Leys, see the full page spread in this months Leys News, or pick up a flyer from the Children's Centre or Health Centre where there are also displays telling you more about safety and the events. Contact Angela Smith, Children's Centre Health Visitor on 01865 779615 or 01865 788688 for more details or to book a place on the first aid workshops.

For further safety advice from the Child Accident Prevention Trust visit www.childsafetyweek.org.uk

photograph courtesy of John Crane

What's On at Leys Children's Centre – Cuddesdon Corner

Tuesday 1 June – Friday 4 June

(61-63 Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys OX4 6SB)

Tuesday 1 June	Wednesday 2 June	Thursday 3 June	Friday 4 June
Stay & Play with lunch (small fee) 11.00 am – 2.00 pm	Teddy Bears Picnic (free child picnic boxes adult lunch for a small fee) 11.00 pm – 2.00 pm National Family Week Event Midwife Clinic for post natal and baby checks, support and advice 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm drop-in or phone 01865 221696 for an appointment	Activity drop-in 10.00 am – 12.00 pm	The Breastfeeding Café For pregnant and feeding mums 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Contact Camille Kalaja 0789 995 8316 Stay & Play with lunch (small fee) 11.00 am – 2.00 pm Including Dummy Exchange! And Baby's First Word display
What's On locally for families			
Talking Together Information and tips 9.30 am – 3.30 pm Templars Square		Children's Centres Information Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm Templars Square Talking Together Information packs Health Visitors Clinic at Leys Health Centre 11.00 am – 12.45 pm Family Explorer Day Hill End Field Studies Centre £5 per family For information call 01865 863510	

For more information about any of the activities phone 01865 773263 / 779615 or see our website www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

Oxfordshire County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Working for you

Children's Centres for families in Oxfordshire

Sure Start

21st - 27th June 2010
Make time for safety

Child Safety Week
events on The Leys . . .

Voucher for a free Children's Centre home safety pack to collect at all events!

	Tuesday 22nd June	Wednesday 23rd June
10.30am	Ambulance Service at The Blackbird Leys Co-Operative Nursery car park (activities for children and first aid advice) 10.30 - 12noon	Fire Engine and "Blue Watch" at the Leisure Centre Car Park (activities for children and fire safety advice) 10.30 – 12noon
11am	IMPS (Injury minimisation and prevention programme) at The Leys Children's Centre - Cuddesdon Corner "Stay and Play" (activities for parents and children on staying safe) 11am – 1pm	
12noon	Ambulance Service at The Leys Children's Centre – Cuddesdon Corner 12noon – 12.30pm Free Lunch and refreshments at the Health Bus	Fire engine and "Blue Watch" at the Leys Children's Centre-Cuddesdon Corner 12noon – 12.30pm Free Lunch and refreshments at the Health Bus
12.30pm		*IMPS First Aid session (with creche) at Leys Children's Centre – Cuddesdon Corner (1 hour)
2pm	*IMPS First Aid session (with creche) at Pegasus School	*IMPS First Aid session (with creche) at Orchard Meadow School
3.30pm	IMPS safety DVD and information at the "Health Bus"	IMPS safety DVD and information at the "Health Bus"
	Nursery Nurse home safety advice at the "Health Bus"	Nursery Nurse home safety advice at the "Health Bus"
All Day	NHS "Health Bus" at The Blackbird Leys Co-Operative Nursery Car Park all day with safety displays and booklets and people available to answer your safety questions	NHS "Health Bus" at The Leisure Centre Car Park all day with safety displays and booklets and people available to answer your safety questions

*** For events marked with a * places need booking, please phone the Children's Centre on 779615 to book your place. Places are limited!**

www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

child accident prevention trust

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Working for you

Children's Centres for families in Oxfordshire

Sure Start

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please contact Peter Knipp on 01865 484886 or wknipp@brookes.ac.uk

Out of Africa - learning about African history

By **Trio Watson**

Tucked away in the Jubilee Hall off Sorrell Road in Blackbird Leys, the African School is a dedicated setting for the study of African history, pre-colonial culture, and the lives of sub-Saharan tribes. But it is much more than that. For some, it's a work in progress, a project dedicated to the development of a curriculum of African history that as yet is not met anywhere else. For others, it's a place to touch base, get together, and celebrate a part of themselves. It's open to everyone with an interest in African culture, and there's a special emphasis on making sure that the teaching methods that are used help everyone get something out of it. "It's very interactive" explains its tutor, Natty Mark Samuels.

The African School has been running since September 2009. Initially held in East Oxford Community Centre, the school moved to Blackbird Leys in January this year, and meets every Monday from 7.15 - 8.15pm. Students are welcome to attend for as many or as few classes as they like, with a rolling programme that covers a very diverse range of aspects of African culture. Class numbers are up to about eight students, aged between 17 and 50, with a variety of nationalities represented. The classes are free. There has been a steady base of support for the school, from a committed group of initial supporters of the school, to an enthusiastic and self-motivated group of students who promote the school individually in the other areas of their lives. The students are one of Natty Mark's favourite things about the school. Another is "an opportunity to indulge my passion to tell people about Africa!" he smiles.

The material on the course stems from a long-standing interest of Natty Mark's, and shared by his students, of African history and culture from pre-colonial times. In the session I visited we learned about the three medieval states in Zimbabwe, Great Zimbabwe, Mwenemutapa and Rozvi, and the subgroup of the Shona people who founded them, the Karanga. Our focus was principally on the religious beliefs of the Karanga, including the diagnosis of illness by the dreams of a diviner. You just don't get this level of detail very often.

Unique Opportunity

In fact, it is one of the reasons why the African School exists - to generate an awareness of the sort of material that could eventually form part of a higher education curriculum in African history. As one of the students, Pat Green said: "It's a unique opportunity for Oxford. There are very few opportunities to come together and focus on African history and culture. Courses such as this are not available in the city, and I hope the African school could open the door to intermediate and higher education studies around this topic."

Ruskin College have recently undertaken to run two courses led by Natty Mark this year, running one in the in the summer (July 9 - 11) and one on the Headington campus in the autumn (October 15 - 17). Further details are available from Ruskin on 01865 554331.

"What inspires you?" I asked him. His favourite African novel is "The Voice" by Gabriel Okara. His favourite African food is the natural ginger beer he bought in a market in Ghana when he visited in 2008, a close second their own peanut butter. Favourite African town or place? Impossible to choose only one. Favourite African person? Historically, Yaa Asantewaa, Queen of Ashanti, for her dignity in upholding Ashanti tradition, and preserving its cultural heritage by not relinquishing key artefacts in the face of colonialism. All in all, an interesting evening, although I was rather glad to have a western GP by the end! Many thanks to everyone at the school who shared their time and enthusiasm with us.

In the photo L-R: Junie, Pat, Lance, Natty Mark and Christine at the African School on Monday night.

Dadzone – Dad's cook up a treat!

Trio Watson catches up with some Dads who are keen to improve their cooking skills.

WHEN I VISITED Cuddesdon Corner on a Wednesday afternoon, the kitchen was alive with activity, fantastic smells, and the tables were already decorated and candlelit.

When I got as far as the kitchen a happy bustle revealed the beginnings of a carrot cake for pudding, rolling out pastry for handmade tortilla wraps, frying onions, making salsa and yoghurt dressings, slicing vegetables, amid a relaxed camaraderie where five men were absorbed in the making of food to present to the children who were at that time in the crèche.

The group came into being when funds were available within the Dadzone budget, and on consultation it was felt that setting up a group expressly for fathers to enjoy preparing food for their children and partners would be a satisfying way to make the most of it. Facilitated by Marina Johansson, Conroy Harris and Glen Berley, the kitchen can accommodate five at a time.

The business of food is taken very seriously, and Marina felt that a big part of her interest was in helping the group see the choices that they have about how to spend their available money.

There is a pack for each cook that brings together work on nutrition, budgeting, cooking for children, a variety of menus and more. There's no question of buying expensive ingredients. She's keen on enhancing skills people already have around making meals, learning about costing and organising a meal, widening out the existing repertoire and experience of each cook and developing confidence. And boy, they did!

I really enjoyed my chicken fajita, but apparently I missed a fantastic boeuf bourguignon a few weeks ago. Daisy, ten, thinks the Lasagne they did a while back was "really good" (a sentiment echoed by everyone I spoke to), although she wasn't entirely sure about some of the other dishes. Something must have gone right today, because the children tucked in happily and the cake smelt promising!

The men seemed to really enjoy themselves in the group. "Would you recommend this group to other men?" I asked Sean. He approves: "There's good teamwork here, and companionship. You're not alone, you're all different, but all carers."

Paul, father to a two-year-old daughter, agrees. "Oh definitely. The socialising is great; you still have a laugh, chat, something different from being in the pub – and no hangover. And I didn't realise I was that good at making banoffee pie!"

...BLITZ News...

Blitz those computer blues

ARE YOU CONFUSED about computers? Is the technological revolution leaving you behind? Are you envious of those folk who can effortlessly navigate their way through the complexities of the 21st century's Internet superhighway?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then the Blitz IT Hub in Blackbird Leys is the place for you. Free, easy-to-follow short courses are held for beginners and intermediate computer-users.

Leys residents enjoy a wide range of activities at Blitz from surfing the Internet, playing and creating compact discs and music videos to scanning photographs and emailing friends and relations overseas. One regular spends his time playing (and usually winning) online draughts matches against exotically-named opponents from far-flung places such as the U.S., Thailand and Australia.

Another Blitz user is busy collecting rejection emails from BBC producers for his radio dramas. "At least I shan't need to buy any wallpaper again," he said; though he has managed to place a documentary idea with Radio 4.

Visitors can be found designing websites, researching family trees and local history, or making posters and flyers. Others are busy writing fiction or academic theses.

Technical help is always on hand, and a dozen screens are available for people without home computers. Anyone over 18 is welcome.

Introductory courses on basic computer literacy, Internet and email access, digital photography and web-page design are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Free CV workshops are available.

Acquiring even the simplest computer skills can transform lives and act as a passport to work and improved career prospects.

Free drop-in access is available all day Monday and on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Most sessions are enlivened by the good naturedly grumbling of Blitz manager John Clifford (think of a grizzled David Beckham): "Good morning? What's good about it?"

Ring John on 01865 714492 or email blitzithub@yahoo.co.uk for further details. Or visit him during office hours at the Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.

Children's Page

Many thanks to DW Contractors for sponsoring this page.

The Leys News Story

Mr Negen Nove's reward

Part Three

By Anna Pavelin

The story so far:
When an old man gave me the reward of '9 wishes' for returning his bus-pass I didn't quite believe him, but after my lost school bag mysteriously turned up and then I made a wish about what we were going to have for dinner that came true as well I started to wonder...

I went to bed that night full of feelings of excitement mixed with fear, saying to myself one minute "It's only a coincidence" and the next minute "but what if it's really true?".

I had a wonderful dream when I did finally get to sleep, I dreamt that I went back to the tower-block to see Mr Nove and the whole tower-block was lit up with a wonderful light. He seemed much younger and more healthy looking and said he would take me to the world which he came from where I would see amazing things. Unfortunately just before we left for the world I started to feel cold and was aware of giggling and whispering.

I woke up suddenly to find that Charlie and Emily had dared each other to drag my duvet off my bed and were running shrieking into Charlie's room with it. It was about 8 am in the morning and if you knew me at all you would know that my Saturday morning lie-in is one of the best parts of my week. I'm telling you this so you understand that I wasn't thinking properly when I ran into Charlie's room, snatched my duvet back roughly and shouted at them at the top of my voice "I WISH YOU WOULD BOTH GET LOST". Then I went back to bed and managed to fall asleep again, but didn't go back to the dream.

I woke up for the second time with Mum banging on my door calling "Have you seen Charlie and Emily?". She seemed worried. Apparently they had gone out a couple of hours ago to play in the back garden and had disappeared. Dad had gone out to look for them but they didn't seem to be anywhere. I must admit I couldn't care less at that moment and was just annoyed I had been woken up again, anyway I thought they were probably playing with the neighbour's girls.

I started eating my breakfast when Dad came in saying "maybe we should call the police, something really bad must have happened, I mean it's not as if they could have got lost or something in the back garden". It was then that the words "got lost" hit me and I realised what I had done...

I ran upstairs with my heart pounding. There were plenty of times when I had wished my sister would just disappear, but now she actually had I felt really bad. I realised I didn't really want something horrible to happen to her, and I certainly didn't want it to be my fault. Now I had to think carefully about the right wording to say to get her to come back. After a few seconds thought I said carefully and clearly "I wish Charlie and Emily would come back now completely unharmed".

Seconds later I hear a commotion from downstairs and saw them in the hallway. Both the girls were crying, Mum was hugging Charlie and Dad was shouting at them "What on earth were you playing at? You know you're not allowed to go out on your own without asking". Charlie replied through her sobs "the ball went over the fence and we went to get it back and then we got lost!". This made Dad even angrier, "do you think I'm an idiot or something? How can you get lost outside your own house?". Then Emily chimed in "it's true, we were walking around for ages and we felt like it was foggy, we couldn't think clearly and Charlie couldn't remember where she lived".

This conversation went on for a few minutes with Charlie and Emily getting more and more upset that they weren't being believed and Dad getting angry that his daughter was lying to him. Eventually Mum said she was taking Emily home because they obviously couldn't be trusted to play together, and she took her upstairs to pack her stuff. Dad just said to her "I do NOT want you even going in the garden without my permission" and stomped off upstairs to go on the computer, which was his way of calming down.

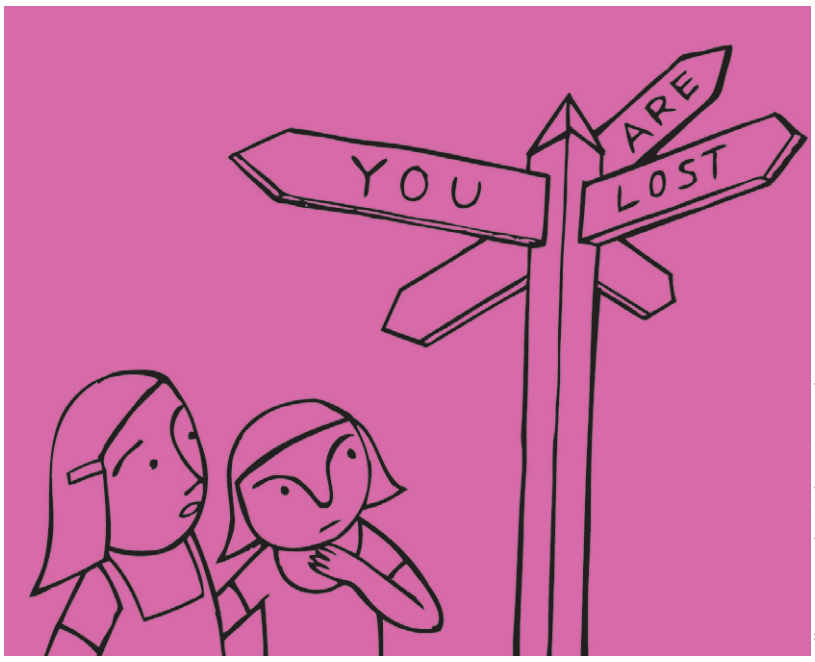


Illustration by Julian Dourado

"It's SO unfair" Charlie said to me. I felt a bit guilty. For once Charlie had been unfairly told off. Even though I'd been unfairly told off loads of times I didn't feel good seeing it happening to my little sister, especially as it was my fault. Obviously I couldn't tell anyone the truth but I did say to her "I believe you, don't worry about it, just stay out of Dad's way and he'll calm down soon enough. If you like you can go in my room and play on my playstation for a bit." She looked at me completely bewildered, in fact she looked like I had felt when I realised I had my schoolbag hanging on my shoulder yesterday. I suppose it wasn't really surprising - her brother who hated her and always chased her out of his room was actually inviting her in to play a game!

I decided to go to the park with my football and work out what to do with these wishes. Mum and Emily came down stairs at that moment with Emily's bag, "Mum, is it alright if I go to the park?" I asked, luckily Mum said yes so I went out straight away.

When I was in the park I worked out that I had 5 wishes left and so far nothing to show for them. I definitely didn't want to waste any more. I thought for ages about what would make my life better and decided that if I was popular and everyone liked me it would be brilliant. No-one would bully me and I would have loads of friends, surely I couldn't go wrong with that: "I wish everyone liked me" I said loudly and clearly to a shrub in the park.

The beautiful game

By **Jack Griffiths**

My name is Jack Griffiths and I am eleven years old. My hobby is playing football. My training days are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays. I mostly play football matches on Sundays. I really enjoy it because I get to meet up with my mates.

I play for Horspath Youth Football Club and my position on the pitch is goal keeper. I have got really far in my football because I have been properly trained. My trainer is called Steve Tooke and he is really strict in a good way.

I have been playing in the team since I was five years of age. At the beginning I started as a defender but as the years have gone by I have realised that being a goal keeper I am more relaxed and feel more confident.

I have had trials for Oxford Football Club and also Reading Football Club. I have been offered a place twice at Oxford but I did not take any of them because I wanted to stay with my mates. Now I am having trials with Oxford again and if I get offered a place I will take it because it will give me a boost in my football.

Just a few weeks back our team had a semi cup final and in the match we gave away a foul in the penalty box and it was a penalty. My heart was pumping really fast. Then the referee blew his whistle for the player to take the penalty. The player took it and I dived into the left-hand corner of the goal and saved it. It bounced off my chest and fell into the other player's path to shoot but I got back on my feet and pounced onto the ball. I felt great! That was the most exciting moment of my career in football.

We would love to hear from any of our younger readers about their hobbies and interests. By sharing your story with other readers, you might encourage them to have a go too!

Send your stories to: editor@leysnews.co.uk

Summer Word Search

Summer is definitely here! With blue skies and longer days ahead, there is plenty of time for getting out and about with your friends to enjoy the lovely weather. Why not take your copy of Leys News with you and have a go at our wordsearch?
There's a chance to win a brilliant mini art kit that is perfect to carry with you wherever you go this summer. Whether it's a picnic and a game of football in the park, sitting in the garden with your friends or maybe taking a trip to the seaside, take your art kit with you and if you feel inspired just start sketching! Make sure your entries get to us by June 18 to be in with a chance of winning. Good luck!

AUGUST
JUNE
BARBECUE
PICNIC
BEACH
SUNBURN
CAMPING
SUN
FLOWERS
FESTIVAL
SUNGLASSES
FRISBEE
SUNTAN
HOLIDAY
SURF
ICE CREAM
VACATION

M	U	D	L	X	Q	N	R	U	B	N	U	S	A	H	M	Z	D
N	A	Z	Y	S	A	U	G	U	S	T	I	K	K	Q	Q	T	T
D	T	X	A	T	U	Q	Z	Q	Y	R	V	D	P	T	H	C	K
S	H	S	F	F	G	N	I	P	M	A	C	O	W	F	Q	S	A
X	Q	G	I	R	Q	F	T	K	F	U	K	M	R	J	R	A	D
B	J	G	P	N	I	K	E	A	V	F	X	U	S	E	F	Q	K
E	C	Y	G	Q	E	S	J	U	N	E	S	R	W	E	P	I	N
I	M	B	Z	H	Q	I	B	I	Q	Z	X	O	M	Y	O	P	G
J	H	G	A	U	F	W	U	E	D	K	L	I	A	E	X	C	V
F	C	P	T	O	S	P	M	X	E	F	M	D	E	M	X	U	A
E	A	J	H	W	C	A	K	D	N	Y	I	I	R	L	E	K	C
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I	T	G	Z	R	M	J	Z	H	I	D	B	D	C	C	B	S	I
V	E	H	G	V	D	P	I	C	N	I	C	X	I	P	K	Z	O
A	M	F	T	I	K	D	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E	O	W	N
L	W	V	D	S	P	N	V	Z	J	L	J	S	Z	H	J	O	S
M	G	V	A	C	Q	M	J	K	N	F	B	S	N	L	S	U	S

Closing date: June 18

Name:.....

Age:..... Telephone:.....

Parent's name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Send your completed entry to Summer Word Search, Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX

What's on

A quick guide to what's available in the Leys. If you have a service or event you'd like to include in What's On, please ring 01865 711756.

ADVICE

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00pm–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm.
Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.00am–12.00pm.
☎ 01865 770206

CHILDREN

Baby Cafe: Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre, Fridays, 10.30am - 12.30pm. www.thebabycafe.org
☎ Carole Roberts, 01865 788688

The Barn Youth Project
Session for ages 7–12 is on Mondays 5.30–7.30pm. Wednesdays is for young people aged 13–20, & runs from 7pm–9pm.

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities & advice for young people. ☎ 01865 772886.

Brownies: Thursdays, Holy Family Church Hall. Gill Manning, ☎ 01865 770959

Dovecote - Afterschool Club
Mondays – Thursdays, 3.15pm – 5.00pm, £1 per session.
☎ 01865 712299

Leys Kiddie Club: In the Dovecote Family Drop-in Room, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am–2.30pm. £1. Price includes a hot drink and a soft drink for children.

Maluchy: group for Polish speaking families with children ages 0–5. Saturdays, Cuddesdon Corner family centre. 9.30–10.30am

Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force
Sandy Lane West. Boys and Girls ages 13 to 18. Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. ☎ 01869 259681

Starlight Black Child Mixed Heritage Group provides a safe forum to explore issues of race and racism with other parents, while the children have fun playing and getting to know each other. ☎ 01865 776691

35th Oxford Scout Group
☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353

Rainbows: Girls aged 5 to 7. Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way.
☎ Laura Turner, 07787528120

EDUCATION

Able Centre
Free courses in Maths and English in friendly groups.
☎ Annette 776334

Blitz IT Courses
IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more.
☎ 01865 714492

Oxford Women's Training Scheme
☎ Helen McLuckie 550227
@ hmcluckie@ocuc.ac.uk

LEISURE

Irish dancing. Sacred Heart Hall. Weds & Thurs, 5pm.

Boxing training. Youth Centre at the Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Rd. Tues & Thurs 7.30–9.00pm.
☎ 01865 715815.

BL Swimming Pool
Blackbird Leys Road. General swimming times are Mon & Fri 5.45–6.45pm, and Sat & Sun 11.15am–1.00pm. Thursdays, 12–1pm, parent and toddlers.
Saturdays and Sundays, 2.30–3.30pm, families only.
☎ 01865 467042.

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
- Bouncy fun for under 5s, Mon 10.30–12pm
- Body Conditioning, Mon 10–11am
- Tae Kwon Do, Tue 6–7pm
- Pilates Beginners, Tue 7–7.45pm
- Aerotone, Wed 6–7pm
- Tae kwon Do, Thu 5–6pm
- Circuit Training, Thu 7.05–7.55pm
- Boxercise, Fri 10–11am
- Step & Tone, Fri 6–7pm

All activites cost from £1.20

OLDER PEOPLE

The Clockhouse
Activities, Friendship, Learning and Fun for over 50s on the Leys. The Clockhouse is on Long Ground, Greater Leys – look for the clock on the roof.
☎ Sally Meachim 01865 395908

Gardening Club for the over 55s
First Thursday of each month 2–4pm. £2. Clockhouse Community Centre.
☎ 01865 395908

WELLBEING

Oxford Survivors Free Drop-in
A self-help group of people who use or have used mental health services. Fri and Sat, 10.30am–3.30pm Blackbird Leys community centre.
☎ 01865 455868
@ oxford.survivors@supanet.com

The Listening Centre.
A counselling service for Blackbird Leys and Oxford. Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre. Mondays: 12.30pm–8.30pm. Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5.30pm–8.30pm.
☎ 01865 794794

Slimming World.
Thursdays, 5.15pm & 7.00pm, Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
☎ Gill, 01865 730009

Diary Dates

Saturday, 5 June
Green Fair at Science Oxford Live
Come and find out some of the simple things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Chat to the experts and discover ways that local companies are making it possible for us all to be green!

11am-4pm, FREE

Science Oxford Live
1 - 5 London Place, St Clements OX4 1BD
www.scienceoxfordlive.com
Tel. 01865 810000
events@scienceoxford.com;

Blackbird Leys Library

Monthly Rhymetime for under 5s
Saturday June 19th
10.30am -11.00am
Come along join in and sing some rhymes using hand puppets and musical instruments.
Free drop in session
Parents are required to stay during activity!

Blackbird leys Library and Learning Centre
Blackbird Leys Road
Oxford, OX4 6HT

☎ *01865 770403*

. . . Church News . . .

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys (car park in Poulton Place)
☎ For all enquiries, Baptisms, and next year's First Holy Communions, etc, please phone the church office 01865 779658

Regular Services:
Sunday Masses
9.30am, with music and children's liturgy.
12noon in Portuguese,
and 6.00pm.

Leys Community Church

☎ Richard and Kate Colbrook, 01865 714153

Meetings:
3.30pm on Sunday afternoons at the Church of the Holy Family. Meetings include special activities for children and young people.

The Church of the Holy Family

☎ Rev David Parry, 01865 778728
www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

Eucharist:
Every Sunday, 10am, with children's church.

Timeout:
Reflective evening worship. Sundays, 6.30pm.

Church Office Hour:
Mondays, for hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries, 6.30–7.30pm.

Fellowship for discussion: Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Prayer, Bible study.

Monday June 14, 6.00pm. Inter-faith Friendship Walk, from Jericho Synagogue to University Church to Manzil Way Mosque.

Tuesday June 22, 7.30pm. The Bishop of Oxford is at Holy Family to:celebrate 50 years since the first Priest Missioner moved into the new estate; to License the Rev'd Roger Burne as Associate Priest; and to administer Confirmation.

Bamboo Qi Gong Club

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30–8.45pm, The Barn
(Off Dunnocks Way)

FREE! Learn the relaxing art of Qi Gong by qualified registered instructor. Improve your general health and fitness through gentle exercise. Over 16's all welcome, just turn up.
☎ 07833 536121
bbleys.bambooqigong@yahoo.co.uk

Your local representatives

Parish Council

Chairman: Gerry Webb,
Vice Chair: Chris Hatton,

Non-position holders:
Anne Booker, Andrew Church, Chris Hatton, Rae Humberstone (*see City Council section below*), Danny Johnston, Cyril Martin, Rosemary Morlin, Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone 01865 716943 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Answering service outside office hours. The mailing address for the Parish Council is 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU.

Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward:

Val Smith – *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
valsmith@gmail.com
or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk
(her city councillor entry)

Rae Humberstone – *Labour*
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys
☎ 01865 779678
cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uks

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes – ring or email to make arrangements.

Northfield Brook Ward:

Stuart Craft – *Independent Working Class Association*
Furlong Close, Oxford OX4 4QJ
☎ 07733 274324
Surgery: Every Tuesday from 6.30 to 7.30pm at the Clockhouse.

Cllr Scott Seamons – *Labour*
2 Orchard Court Roase Hill Oxford OX4 4HJ
☎ 07910 595047
cllrsseamons@oxford.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council

Leys & Lye Division:
Val Smith – *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Richard Stevens – *Labour*
Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT
☎ 07725 353031
richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Member of Parliament for Oxford East
Andrew Smith – *Labour*
Unit A
Bishops Mews
Transport Way
Oxford OX4 6HD

☎ 01865 595790
andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every 3rd Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

What do Area Committees do?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

abandoned vehicles • street cleaning
dog wardens • ditches and streams
decisions on planning applications
public toilets • car parks • allotments
parks and countryside management
street naming • community centres

South East Area Committee Meetings:

Monday 7th June
Blackbird Leys Community Centre
6.30pm

Monday 5th July
Location to be confirmed
6.30pm

Monday 2nd August
Location to be confirmed
6.30pm

For further information ring 01865 252249

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Leys Sports

Football's coming home!

Oxford United fans line the streets for Celebration Parade

HUNDREDS OF FANS flocked to the Kassam Stadium to celebrate Oxford United's promotion to the Football League and to wave off the team as they started their celebration parade around Oxford.

The two open top buses drove pass Oxford United's sponsors, Buildbase, where dozens of staff gathered to salute the team's success at Wembley Stadium against York City. The two buses then headed into the city centre where thousands of fans were waiting to greet the players.

The parade finished at Broad Street where there were speeches from Lord Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Mary Clarkson and Oxford United Chairman Kelvin Thomas.

Councillor Bob Price, Leader of Oxford City Council, says: "I would like to thank the thousands of fans and supporters who turned out to celebrate Oxford United's marvellous victory at Wembley on Sunday and to congratulate the team on a season that has been crowned with glory.

"The huge turnout all along the route from Cowley to Broad Street shows how close to the heart of the community the club is, and the real pleasure that their success has given us."

Kelvin Thomas, Chairman of Oxford United Football Club, says: "The parade was the icing on the cake for the fans and the players.

"I was delighted that so many fans turned out to salute the players and it shows how much this club means to the people of Oxford and Oxfordshire.

"I want to thank the fans for supporting us through the season, lining the streets throughout the parade and for giving us such a good welcome in Broad Street."

The two buses travelled along Garsington Road and Cowley Road before crossing Magdalen Bridge.

The convoy then travelled along Longwall, into South Parks Road before finishing at Broad Street.

Photos courtesy of Dave Flemming